

Boyd-Sledge, Gina

From: m.markley@mchsi.com
Sent: Saturday, September 04, 2004 11:03 AM
To: UCCINFO
Subject: CASE NUMBER RM04-02

REF: Case Number RM04-02 - Reconnect fees along with outrageous security deposit fees is adding insult to injury. Most people that do not pay their monthly gas bill are not trying to get out of paying their bill; they simply do not have the available funds to pay. The outrageous high prices for natural gas prevent many from being able to pay. Energy prices are outrageous! It is the same thing for those living on a fixed income. It infuriates me when I receive a bill that has an added fuel surcharge because gasoline prices are so high. We, the consumes, do not get to charge surcharges when we drive to get our food, medicines and pay bills. I believe a reasonable reconnect fee (under \$50) may be in order but to charge four times the average monthly bill as a deposit plus having to pay any past due amounts plus 3 percent late fee is asking far too much of the NIPSCO consumer. Wages and social security are not keeping up with the high prices of energy and other necessities. You must do something to help these individuals and other NIPSCO consumers.

Thank you.

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